



January 21, 2020

Commissioner Robert G. Taub, Chairman
Commissioner Michael Kubayanda, Vice-Chairman
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Ave., NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268

RE: Docket RM2017-3

Dear Esteemed Commissioners,

On behalf of the Southeast Ohio Foodbank, I am writing to urge you to reconsider your proposal to increase postal rates at several times the rate of inflation. These increases, which are estimated to reach seven percent per year, or roughly 40 percent over five years, will have a significant impact on our ability to help the hard-working people of Southeast Ohio during this critical time in our region's history. We are one of the frontlines of fighting food insecurity caused by the rural opioid epidemic. Our organization relies on direct mail fundraising to provide these services.

In 2019, Direct Mail activities made up roughly a quarter of our organization's development program, and the importance of this funding for providing emergency food services for the tens of thousands of people struggling with rural poverty cannot be overstated. A seven percent increase in our postage costs for each mailing will not only drive up our yearly costs for these activities but sustaining these increases over five years will have a significant impact on our ability to invite new donors to join our cause over the long-term. This is not even taking into account the costs these changes will have on our other activities that rely on bulk mailing. There must be another way to help the USPS sustain their operations that will not hurt some of the most vulnerable people in our nation?

As one of the hundreds of Feeding America Foodbanks across this nation, I know our story and the impact these proposed changes will have on us will be similar to numerous other small foodbanks helping rural America. Please, help us continue to secure the resources we need to serve rural America, we urge you to reconsider this proposal.

Sincerely,

Andrew Mayie

Food and Nutrition Director
Southeast Ohio Foodbank and Regional Kitchen



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